## Message Text

**SECRET** 

PAGE 01 STATE 153441 ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 /055 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:DCJOHNSON APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY ARA/CEN:WMATTHEWS ARA:TTODMAN P:PHABIB EUR/NE:JSHUMATE

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O P 010105Z JUL 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY
AMCONSUL BELIZE PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
SECDEF PRIORITY
CIA PRIORITY

SECRETSTATE 153441

E.O. 11652:GDS TAGS: PBOR, UK, BH

SUBJECT:LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN SECRETARY

1. EMBASSY IS INSTRUCTED TO DELIVER THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM SECRETARY VANCE TO FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR DAVID:

THANKS FOR YOUR LETTER OF JUNE 28. WE REALIZE THAT THESE SECRET

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NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN PROTRACTED, BUT IN OUR VIEW THEY ARE THE MOST LIKELY MEANS OF ACHIEVING A LASTING SETTLEMENT.

WE DO NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR US TO SOUND OUT AGAIN THE GUATEMALANS ON A TERRITORIAL ARRANGEMENT. WE HAVE ALREADY SOUNDED THEM OUT FORMALLY

REGARDING THEIR "MINIMUM" POSITION, AND THEY HAVE STATED IT FORMALLY TO US. ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE THIS STATED POSITION HAS "GIVE" IN IT, WE DO NOT EXPECT THEY WILL MODIFY IT PRIOR TO THE NEGOTIATIONS NEXT WEEK.

IT IS NEVERTHELESS MY BELIEF THAT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT MUST INEVITABLY INVOLVE SOME TERRITORIAL OFFER TO WHICH

THE GUATEMALANS COULD RESPOND POSITIVELY.

THE AVAILABILITY OF ARBITRATION AS A MEANS FOR RESOLVING THE DISPUTE EMERGED FROM MY DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA OF GUATEMALA DURING OUR REVIEW OF ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE TO THE PARTIES. I AGREE WITH YOU THAT ARBITRATION OR MEDIATION PRESENTS COMPLEX QUESTIONS, AND I AM THEREFORE GLAD THAT YOU DO NOT RULE THEM OUT AS AN APPROACH TO BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED SHOULD NEGOTIATIONS FOUNDER.

FINALLY, BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THIS ISSUE, AND ITS DISRUPTIVE POTENTIAL IN THE REGION, I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST THAT TED ROWLANDS MEET WITH PHIL HABIB BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER NEXT WEEK'S NEGOTIATING ROUND. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ALL CONCERNED.

SINCERELY, SECRET

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CYRUS VANCE

END TEXT. VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, NEGOTIATIONS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 01-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am

Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE153441
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**Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter:** DCJOHNSON Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS

Errors: N/A **Expiration:** 

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Subject: LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN SECRETARY TAGS: PBOR, PSDC, PDEV, BH, UK, GT, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (OWEN, DAVID)

To: LONDON Type: TE

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Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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